



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Vincent E. Bryan et al.
Application No. : 10/039,240
Filed : January 4, 2002
For : SPINAL NEEDLE SYSTEM

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Examiner : LoAn H. Thanh
Art Unit : 3763
Docket No. : 170134.401
Date : June 9, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents:

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.56 and 1.97 through 1.98, applicants wish to make known to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office the references set forth on the attached Form PTO-1449 (copies of the cited references are enclosed). As to any reference supplied, applicants do not admit that it is "prior art" under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103, and specifically reserve the right to traverse or antedate any such reference, as by a showing under 37 CFR 1.131 or other method. Although the aforesaid references are made known to the Patent and Trademark Office in compliance with applicants' duty to disclose all information they are aware of which is believed relevant to the examination of the above-identified application, applicants believe that their invention is patentable.

We hereby certify that no item set forth on the attached form PTO-1449 was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to our knowledge, after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37

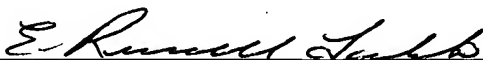
CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

The Jacobs et al. patents cited herein do not teach or suggest rotation for engagement or the ability to disengage up rotation in an opposite direction. Disengagement is a critical function of the present invention, and none of the Jacobs et al. patents teach or suggest "disengagement." Jacobs et al focus on anchoring or fixing tissue together or to other tissue, such as bone, and these devices are designed to remain on or in the body whereas the present invention is not so designed.

Please acknowledge receipt of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and kindly make the cited references of record in the above-identified application.

Applicants believe this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement has been timely filed, however, the Director is authorized to charge any fee due by way of this Information Disclosure Statement to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,
Seed Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC



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Enclosures:

Postcard
Form PTO-1449
Cited References (6)

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FORM PTO 449
REV. 7-80U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEATTY. DOCKET NO.
170134.401APPLICATION NO.
10/039,240

APPLICANTS

Vincent E. Bryan et al.

FILING DATE

January 4, 2002

GROUP ART UNIT

3763

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
(Use several sheets if necessary)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	D462,766 S	09/10/02	Jacobs et al.	D24	146	
	AB	6,447,535	09/10/02	Jacobs et al.	606	215	
	AC	6,485,503	11/26/02	Jacobs et al.	606	215	
	AD	6,645,226	11/11/03	Jacobs et al.	606		
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	TRANSLATION	
					YES	NO
	AK	WO 02/32345 A2	04/25/02	WIPO		
	AL	WO 02/096269 A2	12/05/02	WIPO		
	AM					
	AN					
	AO					

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AP		
	AQ		
	AR		

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not criteria is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant(s).